

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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-----089054 200051Z /70
Z 200032Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101013

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO
KIM DONG-JO

1. TIME IS NOW RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT FOR THE ROK TO PURSUE
A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH JAWORSKI AND SENATOR
STEVENSON ON THE QUESTION OF ETHICS COMMITTEE ACCESS TO
KIM DONG-JO. WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS STALLED DIALOGUE WOULD
HAVE BEEN RENEWED BY THIS TIME. JAWORSKI HAD INDICATED
HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK
THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 20. FURTHERMORE, THE SENATE
ETHICS COMMITTEE IS MEETING IN CLOSED SESSION APRIL 20
AND SENATOR STEVENSON HAD ALSO SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO MEET
WITH KIM PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

2. ROK EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEOUL
STILL TIE AMBASSADOR'S HANDS, DESPITE STEADY FLOW OF
CABLES FROM THE EMBASSY HERE TO ROKG EXPRESSING GRAVE
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CONCERN THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S NORMAL CONTACTS AND DIALOGUE
WERE BEING "FROZEN."

3. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNWILLINGNESS EVEN TO
INDICATE TO SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS WHEN THEY WOULD
RECEIVE A RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST TO TALK WITH

THE AMBASSADOR WAS AN INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE POSITION AND ONE WHICH COULD LEAVE VERY NEGATIVE OVERTONES FOR THE FUTURE IN THE MINDS OF THOSE INVOLVED. BOTH STEVENSON AND JAWORSKI HAD PERSONALLY REQUESTED TO TALK WITH AMBASSADOR KIM, EVEN BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED FROM SEOUL. KIM HAS NOW BEEN IN WASHINGTON EXACTLY TWO WEEKS WITHOUT ANY APPOINTMENT HAVING BEEN MADE WITH EITHER MAN. IN ADDITION, SPEAKER O'NEILL HAS ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IN WRITING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH JAWORSKI.

4. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO THERE TO UNLIMBER THE ROKG INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE MOST HELPFUL. KIM CLAIMS THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE. YOU MAY STRESS THAT AT NO TIME HAVE WE PRESSED THE ROKG REGARDING THEIR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO. HOWEVER, FOR THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO REMAIN UNRESPONSIVE TO DIRECT REQUESTS BY SENIOR U.S. LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS EVEN TO MEET WITH THEM CAN BE MOST DAMAGING.

5. IF YOU SENSE ANY HINT THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO BELIEVE DELAY WILL PLAY INTO ROKG HOPES THAT THE USG WILL CHANGE OR AMEND ITS TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT UNMISTAKEABLY CLEAR THAT WHAT IS AT STAKE IN RESTORING THE COOPERATION AND CONFIDENCE OF THE CONGRESS IS FAR CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE THAN THE FATE OF ANY ONE PIECE OF LEGISLATION. IN ADDITION TO THE ARMS TRANSFER REQUEST WE ALSO HAVE FMS CREDIT AND PL-480 REQUESTS FOR KOREA BEFORE THE CONGRESS AND CONSTANT OVERSIGHT ON SUCH CONTINUING MATTERS AS EX-IM LOANS AND CASH ARMS SALES, NOT TO MENTION THE UNDERLYING AND FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROK SECURITY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE101013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH:FLW
Enclosure: EXDIS DIST AS NODIS
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840163-0278, N780004-0544
Format: TEL
From: STATE EA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabctg.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 995a79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2901419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, (KIM DONG-JO)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/995a79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014